

and cleaning up corruption here in Washington. Democrats are fighting for the people.

A TEXAS RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is that time of the year, a time folks in Texas and in the South have been waiting for. It is called football season.

It has been said there are only two seasons in Texas: football season and spring football season.

Football in Texas is its own religion. Whether you are watching the game under the Friday night lights, joining 25,000 of your closest friends on Saturday, or checking your watch in church to make sure your preacher gets you out on time on Sunday, there are more than a few prayers being said in the name of football on any given day in Texas.

Just last week, I headed to Waco, Texas, with my entire family to watch my alma mater, the Abilene Christian Wildcats, take on the Baylor Bears. The outcome wasn't what we were hoping for, but there is nothing better than college football under a Texas sunset.

Texans naturally believe everything is bigger and better in Texas—because it is. My son, Kurt, started playing football when he was 8 years old, and I have watched him play every game from Humble, Texas, pee-wee football until he took the field wearing the purple and white of our alma mater, Abilene Christian University.

From the beginning, Kurt played quarterback. Being the quarterback is one of those positions that is tough on parents. It is all the fame or all the blame. Every time I saw him take the field, I saw that same little 8-year-old boy full of determination. It was that very determination that led to him being a walk-on at Abilene Christian University and earning a spot as a safety and becoming an Academic All-Conference player.

I was a judge during that time in Texas in Houston, and I would head out on Friday night after court and drive all night to towns such as Abilene; Kingsville; Canyon; Wichita Falls; Commerce; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Ada, Oklahoma, to get there in time for Saturday's game.

There is nothing more fun than being in a stadium on that first weekend and seeing your team and your son take the field to thousands chanting, "Wildcats, purple, white, purple, white, fight, fight, fight."

Last week I saw Kurt's son, my grandson, Jackson, take the field, also as safety, for the Georgetown, Texas, middle school team.

Texas football is a legend and legacy. It has spawned books, movies, TV series, and it has been known to ruin a family dinner or two in a house divided over the loyalty of their team. Blood

may be thicker than water, but it is not thicker than football.

Yes, Texans love football, right down to the names they choose for their children and to the cars they drive. I am sure there is some big executive in Detroit wondering why they have to send so many maroon pickups to Texas. Well, of course, they are for the Texas Aggie fans.

We may not have too many fall weddings in Texas, but I am willing to bet you that you have been to a wedding where the new Mr. and Mrs. took off down the aisle to the University of Texas' "The Eyes of Texas" or got a big Texas A&M "Whoop" after the preacher declared them husband and wife.

But it is not just the action on the gridiron. It is the atmosphere; it is the band; it is the drill team; it is the cheerleaders; it is the moms selling T-shirts, the school clubs hanging banners, the same old guys in the same old seats season after season in the stands, and the whole atmosphere of what makes the game great.

So, Madam Speaker, it is that time of the year. Put on your school colors; head for the game; grab some hotdogs and Dr Pepper or Coke; and take part in one of Texas' finest religious traditions: Texas football.

And that is just the way it is.

PUERTO RICO IS A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, September 20 this next week is the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Maria.

One year later in Puerto Rico, in the neighboring island of Puerto Rico where there are U.S. citizens living because Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, the schools are still closed.

One year later and people are still waiting for home repairs.

One year later and the death toll continues to rise.

One year later and we are just now finding out that the death toll resulting from Hurricane Maria and its aftermath resulted in 2,975 deaths, a drastic, dramatic increase from the original reported numbers by the government of merely 64 people.

Madam Speaker, the numbers have ballooned from 64 people who died during that terrible storm and the aftermath, to 2,975. We are just now finding out that close to 3,000 U.S. lives were lost while this administration did very little.

Just this week, the President said that he has done an A-plus job. He seems to feel that there are only 64 deaths there, but that is not the case. In fact, there were 3,000 lives that perished there with slow response, and that is failure. That is an F-minus, to me, for government.

But that is not all. Such is the indifference of this administration to the lives of Puerto Rico. And, Madam Speaker, we have a moral obligation to help the Puerto Rican people. They are American citizens.

When we are in a time of war, when our Nation is in danger, we call upon them to defend us. Thousands and thousands of Puerto Ricans have given up their lives for democracy in the United States.

We all remember the photograph of President George W. Bush on Air Force One hovering over New Orleans right after Katrina, and it was a watershed moment for our Nation that the photo became the poster child for neglect and the failed response of the government during a tragedy.

Well, guess what. Puerto Rico has become our modern-day Katrina. Undoubtedly, this administration's mismanagement of Puerto Rico has become its most significant failure to date.

FEMA provided roughly a third of the meals, half as much water, and just a small fraction of tarps to Puerto Rico than it provided to Texas after Hurricane Harvey in the first 9 days after the storm. Several weeks elapsed before FEMA and the Defense Department increased their presence on the island. And even though airports and ports had reopened after a few days, they still failed to bring the necessary help to that island.

The agencies failed to direct the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* and other ships to Puerto Rico and provide first aid to the people who were hurting.

We have now entered the 2018 hurricane season. As you know, we are bracing for Florence, Isaac, Helene, and Olivia to make landfall. This administration needs to do better in responding to these emergencies.

It is heartbreaking and a serious tragedy for the American citizens of Puerto Rico, their families, and our Nation as a whole to have been treated this way. We cannot turn our backs on Puerto Rico, and we must continue to support our brothers and sisters along this journey to rebuild their lives during this humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the Puerto Rico crisis has become a humanitarian crisis that has proven far greater than we ever imagined.

CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Constitution Day this upcoming week.

On September 17, 231 years ago, 39 patriots signed their names to a document that changed the course of history. This document chartered a lasting experiment in democracy and put our Nation on the path to becoming

the world's strongest and greatest in the history of the world.

Since 1789, the Constitution has served as our country's legal foundation. Its wisdom is timeless, and just as George Washington called the Constitution the guide he would never abandon, we should not abandon the brilliance of our Founders' intent.

The Constitution establishes the United States of America as a nation of laws where the government derives its limited powers from "We the People," the consenting governed. Those words, I believe, Mr. Speaker, are the most important words outside our Bible.

Thanks to the foresight of the Constitution's Framers and their understanding of government overreach and human nature, we have an abiding document that checks the power of the Federal Government and protects the rights of individual citizens.

What has happened with our government, though, is that it has expanded in such a manner that it flips the Constitution on its head. Let's take a look at Articles I through III, which outline the powers of each branch of government.

In this pocket copy of the Constitution, Article I is eight pages; but it is, by far, the longest of the articles, detailing the powers of the Congress.

Article II is only three pages, outlining the powers of the executive branch.

Article III is only a half page and establishes the limited powers of the judicial branch.

Now, what has happened is that the relative power of each branch is completely inverted. The power to write the law and thereby represent the will of the people has been diminished by both the executive and judicial branches.

The judicial branch seeks to write the law through its power of interpretation in setting precedent. The judicial branch has become an instrument for activists to pass agendas that could not be accomplished by passing laws in Congress because they lacked the support of the majority of people in the country.

Rather than serving as the least powerful branch of government that acts as a check, the judicial branch has taken the power delegated to Congress and become a much more powerful branch than ever intended.

The executive branch has promulgated rules which have the force of law and have circumvented the lawmaking process of Article I, thwarting again the grand design of the Constitution.

These trends must stop and the plan of the Constitution reasserted. The Constitution is genius in its brevity, in its endurance, and in its forethought to limit and separate the governing powers established therein. It is an honor and a sacred duty for me to protect and uphold the Constitution in representing the people of the Fifth District here in this Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Rosalinda Rivera, New Life Outreach Church, Richmond, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we come before You this day with grateful hearts for this wonderful Nation we live in. For our Senators, our Congressmen and -women, our President, for their families, bless them as they sacrificially lead us as a Nation.

We lift up those today that are imprisoned by a lifestyle of addiction, trapped in the trenches of hopelessness. Your Word says that if we are in a pit, You will lift us up and put our feet on a rock.

So we cry out on behalf of our husbands, our wives, our sisters, our brothers, for the young people of America that are trapped by the pit of opioid addiction and sex trafficking.

You are the God of hope and healing. So, in Your name, I declare the chains of addiction are broken. I declare freedom in the hearts of every person fighting addiction. Through You, our God, we have the victory.

Thank You for always being faithful. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KENNEDY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR ROSALINDA RIVERA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Rosalinda Rivera, and her friends, of Chesterfield County, Virginia, to the House Chamber today.

As an associate pastor at the New Life Outreach Church, the church her parents, Carmen and Victor Torres founded in 1972, she has helped reach those who are in search of a better way of life.

In addition to her role in the church, she is involved in many other organizations to serve those in need. Whether it is helping young people overcome the challenges of addiction at New Life for Youth, helping young mothers restore relationships with their children at Mercy Mom's House, or inspiring groups all over the U.S. with her writing and ministry, her service has been one spent devoted to the service of others.

She has turned the lives of countless people around, giving them faith, hope, and purpose. Her work is a testament to the Judeo-Christian tradition, which calls all people to love and care for others in the same way that God loves and cares for each of us.

Thank you, Rosalinda, and God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING TRIYOUNG ON AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize TriYoung, a woman-owned business in Peoria, Arizona, on American Business Women's Day on September 22.

In August, I visited businesses across Arizona's Eighth District to discuss how reduced Federal regulations, pro-growth policies, and Republican-led tax reform have impacted business owners and employees.

For Julie Young, president of TriYoung, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has produced a sizeable savings that she plans to reinvest back into her employees.